A DECLARATION OF THE COMMISSIONERS for the Countie of YORK,

Appointed by the late Act of *Parliament* (dated the 19 of December, 1651) for the Monethly Assessments there.

Upon their Resolution of a generall Survey of the said Countie.

5. Febr. 1651.

Ordered by the said Commissioners that this Declaration *and* Resolution *of the* 8 *of Ianuary, concerning the Survey, &c. be forthwith Printed. And published in all the Churches and Chappels of this Countie.*

Clem: Reed, *Cleric.*

Printed and sold in York by *Tho: Broad.*

Febr. 5. 1651.

The Declaration of the Commissioners for the Monthly Assessments within the Countie of York, upon their Resolution of a generall Survey.

WHereas the great and many exigencies of the Commonwealth, and of this Countie eminently above any other, have necessitated the levying of heavy summs of money from the Inhabitants of the same, which in the heat and turmoil of Warre could not equally and justly be Assessed upon particulars; the Wisdom and Justice of *Parliament*, and those imployed under them, being full-handed in the necessary support of the Essence and Foundation of our Freedoms, whereby it fell out that many poor Townships and persons lay under grievous and unjust burthens, as by their Petitions to the *Parliament*, their Complaints to Us the Commissioners, and to the Sessions of the Peace, we have had very Sensible Demonstrations.

Out of tender sense whereof, the *Parliament* (there being the same grief thorowout the Nation) did by their Act of the 25 of *March* 1649, as much as in them lay, provide a remedy for the good and ease of all, appointing that an equall Survey should be had of the

true value of all Townſhips, &c. which juſt proviſion of theirs was fruſtrated of its hoped end, by the neceſſary attendance of all in Power upon things of more preſſing and weighty concernment.

But it having now pleaſed God to end our Buſineſſe, and repayed all our Taxes with Intereſt, in ſubduing our Forraign and Domeſtique Enemies, and given us a happy leiſure to purſue our Dutie, to the redreſſe of every wrong, and (as much as in every one of us lies, with whom the Power is intruſted) to perfect a juſt diſtribution of our remaining Burdens, to the eaſe of the oppreſſed, we thought it our dutie effectually to expedite a generall Survey of this whole Countie, (not without many thanks to thoſe peaceable ſpirits, who, out of upright aim to purchaſe the main end, have hitherto ſat down in quiet under particular oppreſſions) and having now reſolved upon the ſame, we do earneſtly deſire all men of upright intentions, to contribute their endeavours to the forwarding of this ſo good a Work; and though perhaps themſelves draw more of the Charge, that they would conſider that it is juſt, and that we are not now under a Tyrannie, but a Commonwealth, wherein Fellow-Memberſhips and co-ordination to the Body make all unequall diſtribution of Burden or nouriſhment a Diſeaſe. And how neceſſary a Work this is, we beleeve no rationall man can doubt, when he conſiders that Tyrannie & Kingſhip were not things perſonall, but that there was a Deputation and concatenation of Tyrants thorow the whole Nation, whereby the Burdens of Warre and Peace were unequally ſupported, the Mannors of Courtiers, demain Lands, Forreſts, Parks, Warrens, Tythes, Biſhops Lands, with the whole endowment of Church and Court, either exempt

empt from all publike contributions, or aſſeſſed in that diſproportion, as is not now ſuitable for *England* Free. And though perhaps ſome of our ſelves may have ſucceeded into the benefit of the old unequall Diſtribution, yet God having owned publike Principles of impartiall juſtice, we willingly do, and deſire all men of Eſtate to aſpire no higher then a Fellow-Commonerſhip in the Nation, and in that great Principle of impartiall juſtice to drown all ſelfiſh Pedling after unproportionable eaſment.

It muſt needs be conſidered, that our ancient Rates (though perhaps ſhaped formerly with the moſt eaven hand in thoſe farre diſtant times) cannot now juſtly anſwer the various growth, and decay of Eſtates, which hath, and do every age happen; the Incloſing of Arable, the improvement of Waſte, the tranſlation of Trade, are things that do palpably advance the worth of Eſtates fourfold to their originall imployments; and certainly in this viciſſitude of wealth, it is juſt, and required at our hand to follow the ſhoale, and adapt the Burdens of the Countrey to the ſtrength and abilities of thoſe amongſt whom they are apportioned: add to all this, that by publike Acts of State many Townſhips, and of great value, have been ſeparate from the Countie, many overflown by the Sea, the names onely remaining; and therefore we cannot without manifeſt injury and failer of our Truſt, acquieſce in theſe wilfull oppreſſions.

Its very true, that it was the wiſdome of our Forefathers to hide the wealth of the Nation, and hinder (as much as in them lay.) a true eſtimate of mens Eſtates; but that prudence of theirs had its eye on the rapacious diſpoſition of our former Kings, whoſe Luſt and Covetouſneſſe had no ſtop or bottom, but

the Subjects poverty or ſlavery, when fained Wars, and the publike defence of the Nation were onely Stales to extort money, to maintain the pride of the Court, licentious Favourites, or Forraign Intereſt: But the great and good wiſdome of God hath provided better things for us; we are now all of one Family, Fathers and Sonns, Maſters and Servants, Rulers and Subjects by turns, and one mutuall knowledg of each others wealth will be our mutual joy; our Laws having bound every man in his poſſeſſion with a Band of Iron, till his own neceſſities, juſt defence and conſent by thoſe he imploys, commands any part of it from him. And for that much objected diſturbance of the Peace, by interruption of the old wayes of Aſſeſſments, which this juſt Survey is ſurmiſed will bring, that if any Force would have been equally prevalent to have kept in poſſeſſion the old Owners of Kings, Biſhops, Deans Lands, with Forreſt, and rivetted us in a perpetuity of injuſtice: But the healthy and well proportioned Eſtate of the Body of the Countie, is worth ſome ſmall concuſſion, and when ever it doth happen, we aſſure our ſelves it will proceed from corrupt perſons, ſeeking their private wealth and eaſe out of their neighbours oppreſſion, whom to meet withall and defeat, is worth the pains of the Magiſtracy, and it is a conſideration that doth the more incourage us in the vigorous proſecution of this eſtimate; we do therefore juſtly expect, that theſe Childiſh affrightments, and emptie jealouſies, wherewith the prudent proviſions of the State, to the juſt management of our preſent and future Taxations, have been by many unwarily entertained, ſhould now vaniſh, and men of pretence, either to knowledge, juſtice, or good affection to the State, ſhould

cheerfully

cheerfully assist and promote the executing of these their Commands.

Lastly, as to the Persons whom we have desired to Manage this Work, they are (in our esteem and hope) of that integrity and due temper, that we beleeve the Countrey will not have any just cause to repent of being weighed in their Ballance; and speciall care is by us taken, and shall from time to time, during the Work, to circumstantiate and direct them in the just proceed of their Office.

And wee doe Declare, that in this Survey to bee taken, wee shall not prie into the personall Estates of Money, Stock, or other Goods, or endeavour to understand and value Mysterious Trading, but passe them by, as fleeting and uncertain, and wish them good speed: our present endeavours are onely aimed at the certain knowledge of the true pound Rent of the Countie, whereby the great disturbance, differences and disputes, which have many years fill'd us with clamours, and inextricable Difficulties; (without this universall remedy) may now all be ended, and every man may in peace accept of his just burden.

And now, if this businesse prosper not, which we again commend to every mans care, be the fault upon those who in these times of Publike necessitie, unjustly hide and substract their Estates from copartnership in the publike Charges; whom (whoever it be) we would have assured, that it is in our esteem, a Crime, so farre as it extends, little better then detestable Neutralitie.

By the Commissioners for the Monthly Assessments within the Countie of York, at a generall Meeting in York.

IN pursuance of the Act of *Parliament* for the six months Assessments, it is Ordered and appointed, that the Gentlemen, whose Names are here underwritten (Surveyors of the Countie of *York*, according to the said Act) shall give a Meeting, and appear at the Common-Hall at *York* upon the fifth day of *February* next, by ten of the Clock in the forenoon, to take Instructions for their Proceedings regularly therein; and hereof they are not to fail: and the Agent is to give them timely notice. Dated 8. *January*, 1651.

Subscribed as followeth,

George Marwood. *Edward Rodes.*
John Aulaby. *John Wastell.*
Richard Darley. *John Bright.*
Thomas Dickinson. *Richard Robinson.*
Christopher Ridley. *Hugh Bethell.*
Charles Fenwick. *Durand Hotham.*
Robert Walters. *Thomas Hudson.*

The names of the Surveyors.

For the west-Riding.

Lieut. Coll. Currer and Mr. John Bynns of Bingley. Mr. William Walker of Bentley. Capt. Roger Coats of Kildwick. M. Richard Roundell of Cowthorp. M. William Hardisty.

For the North-Riding.

M. Ralph Bell and M. John Pibus of Thirsk. M. Robert Metcalf of Sowerby under Cotcliff. M. Robert Colthust of Kirk-Leatham. M. Matth. Langdale of Skeeby.

For the East-Riding.

M. John Hearon of Beverly. M. John Duncalf of Twyers. M. Marmaduke Pricket of Allerthorp. M. William Rowsby of Crambe.

Finis.